

REMARKS (Amendments)

I would like to address the issues concerning the rejections of Claims 1 and 2 as they pertain to the Patent Application No. 09/989/567.

Claim 1 and 2 are being rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,502,155 to Ito and U. S. Patent No. 4,502,154 to Ito.

Ito discloses a convertible garment useful as a jacket and a bag, wherein the jacket may be stored within the bag. The garment has a double layer of material forming the back panel of the jacket, the top layer having a mouth opening at the rear upper portion of the jacket. The back panel functions as an oversized pocket which, when turned inside out receives the entire jacket therein. The article has strings and/or drawstrings, which are threaded through the mouth of the pocket and are used as straps when the garment is converted to the tote bag function.

What Ito does not disclose in U.S. Patent No. 4,502,155 to Ito and U. S. Patent No. 4,502,154 to Ito is a convertible garment useful as a jacket and bag in which the jacket is also reversible.

This disclosure can be found in Patent Application No. 09/989/567. Adding a reversible feature to the jacket is an improvement above the entire design disclosed by Ito in U.S. Patent No.

4,502,155 to Ito and U. S. Patent No. 4,502,154 to Ito and increases the multiple function of the jacket. Again, this disclosure can be found in Patent Application No. 09/989/567.

Claim 1 is being rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,700,409 to De Lott.

De Lott discloses a convertible garment useful as a jacket and a bag, wherein the jacket may be stored within the bag. The garment has a double layer of material forming the back panel of the jacket, the top layer having a mouth opening at the rear upper portion of the jacket. The back panel functions as an oversized pocket which, when turned inside out receives the entire jacket therein.

What De Lott does not disclose in U.S. Patent No. 4,700,409 to De Lott is a convertible garment useful as a jacket and bag in which the jacket is also reversible. This disclosure can be found in Patent Application No. 09/989/567. Adding a reversible feature to the jacket is an improvement above the entire design disclosed by De Lott in U.S. Patent No. 4,700,409 to De Lott and increases the multiple function of the jacket. Again, this disclosure can be found in Patent Application No. 09/989/567.

Although U.S. Patent No. 4,502,155 to Ito and U. S. Patent No. 4,502,154 to Ito and U.S. Patent No. 4,700,409 to De Lott share the same disclosure, both Ito and De Lott were awarded patents (Ito in 1983 followed by De Lott in 1987). However, it is clear that Patent Application No. 09/989/567 is an improvement above U.S. Patent No. 4,502,155 to Ito and U. S. Patent No. 4,502,154 to Ito and U.S. Patent No. 4,700,409 to De Lott due to the added feature in which the convertible garment useful as a jacket and bag includes the versatility of the said jacket being reversible.

I'd further like to address the concerns of Claims 1 and 2 alternatively being rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 4,502,154 to Ito in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,502,155 to Ito.

Ito discloses a convertible garment useful as an outerwear garment and a bag, wherein the outerwear may be stored within the bag. The garment has a double layer of material forming the back panel of the jacket (Fig.3), the top layer having a mouth opening (2) at the rear portion of the jacket (Fig. 2). The back panel functions as an oversized pocket (7) which, when turned inside out as shown in Fig. 4, receives the entire jacket therein. The article has drawstrings (3, 4), which are threaded through the mouth of the pocket and used as rope like article when the garment is converted to the tote bag function, as in claim 2.

Concerning U.S. Patent No. 4,502,155 to Ito as it pertains to the present invention it must be stressed that Ito attaches a bag like structure to the back panel of the jacket with a second bag like structure attached to the first where as in the present invention of Patent Application No. 09/989,567 the sack portion of the jacket actually doubles as the back piece of the said jacket. It is because of this that it is mandatory that the opening to the sack portion be positioned across the shoulder blades as seen in Patent Application No. 09/989,567 Fig. 2 mouth opening 20 on the drawing specifications. The existing working prototype for Patent Application No. 09/989,567 confirms that since the sack portion of the jacket doubles as the back piece of the said jacket, the higher that the opening to the sack portion is positioned, the easier it is to deliver the jacket into the said sack portion when converting the jacket into a tote bag.

The obviousness of the position of the bag portion in U.S. Patent No. 4,502,154 to Ito and U.S. Patent No. 4,502,155 to Ito is also found in U.S. Patent No. 4, 700,409 to De Lott. The main concern involving the bag portion is not only the availability of storage space but also the overall protection concerning the opening of the bag portion, which is ignored by Ito in U.S. Patent No. 4,502,154. This issue is addressed in U.S. Patent No. 4, 700,409 to De Lott with the use of a closing devise to cover the opening. However Patent Application No. 09/989,567 as the present invention provides an overall improvement to resolve the issue of the use of a closing devises verses the non-use of closing devises by eliminating the need of any closing

gadgets or structure as it pertains to the opening of the sack portion through the reversible function of the jacket which allows the opening to be concealed and completely protected.

Print Name CARLA Arlene Turner

Signature 

CLAIM 1. (Amended)

I claim:

A combination reversible and convertible article useful as a jacket and tote bag in one which said jacket is comprised of two large sheets of material forming a back piece which is then sown to two front pieces with one front piece sown on one side of the back piece and the other sown on the remaining side of back piece thus forming a trunk like structure that includes an opening to receive the head and neck, two long sleeves attached to receive arms into trunk portions, a panel of buttons and a separate panel of button holes used as a closing devise for said trunk portion which also includes:

Claim 2. (Amended)

The combination reversible and convertible article in claim 1, in which the said back piece having two large sheets of material with one side consisting of a smooth surface and a second side consisting of a surface interrupted by a mouth opening positioned across the shoulder area, in which said mouth opening leads to a sack portions which when inverted, the entire jacket is delivered into the sack portions thus transforming the jacket into a tote bag. The said mouth opening also has one loop along the mouth opening of the said sack portions allowing for a rope like article to be positioned throughout the said mouth opening with the rope like article being used to carry the tote bag.

Claim 3. (New)

The article in Claim 1 further includes a reversible side of the said article allowing the user to conceal all openings leading to sack portion of said article thus protecting the said mouth opening that leads to sack portion of said article without the use of closing and or fastening devises for the said sack portion, while at the same time presenting an optional look for the said article by displaying a fastening track and slider used to close the said article when being worn as a jacket, interlock stitching along the sleeves, collar and seamed border of the

said article and exposing the smooth uninterrupted surface of the back piece and concealing all indications of the said article, a combination reversible and convertible jacket, multiple functions.

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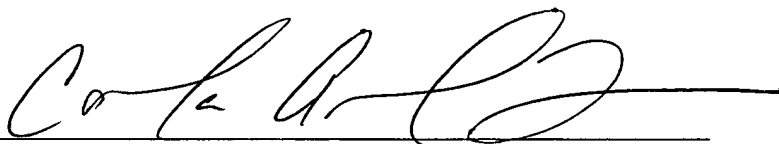
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Concerning U.S. Patent No. 4,502,155 to Ito as it pertains to the present invention it must be stressed that Ito attaches a bag like structure to the back panel of the jacket with a second bag like structure attached to the first where as in the present invention of Patent Application No. 09/989,567 the sack portion of the jacket actually doubles as the back piece of the said jacket. It is because of this that it is mandatory that the opening to the sack portion be positioned across the shoulder blades as seen in Patent Application No. 09/989,567 Fig. 2 mouth opening 20 on the drawing specifications. The existing working prototype for Patent Application No. 09/989,567 confirms that since the sack portion of the jacket doubles as the back piece of the said jacket, the higher that the opening to the sack portion is positioned, the easier it is to deliver the jacket into the said sack portion when converting the jacket into a tote bag.

The obviousness of the position of the bag portion in U.S. Patent No. 4,502,154 to Ito and U.S. Patent No. 4,502,155 to Ito is also found in U.S. Patent No. 4, 700,409 to De Lott. The main concern involving the bag portion is not only the availability of storage space but also the

overall protection concerning the opening of the bag portion, which is ignored by Ito in U.S. Patent No. 4,502,154. This issue is addressed in U.S. Patent No. 4, 700,409 to De Lott with the use of a closing devise to cover the opening. However Patent Application No. 09/989,567 as the present invention provides an overall improvement to resolve the issue of the use of a closing devises verses the non-use of closing devises by eliminating the need of any closing gadgets or structure as it pertains to the opening of the sack portion through the reversible function of the jacket which allows the opening to be concealed and completely protected.

Print Name CARLA Arlene Turner

Signature 



AMENDMENT

Name: TURNER, Carla Arlene

Application Number: 09/989,567

Attn: Amy B. Vanatta

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TITLE OF INVENTION

A combination reversible jacket and tote bag in one by Carla Arlene Turner, a citizen of the United States of America and a resident of the City of Yorba Linda in the state of California.

CROSS - REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

All references pertaining to the present invention should be applied to the provisional patent application number 60/253,001 filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 27, 2000.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPEMENT

Not Applicable.

REFERENCE TO A MICROFICHE APPENDIX

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Field Of Invention

The present invention relates to a combination convertible article useful as a jacket and tote bag in one. It is designed to be a convenient and practical jacket that is reversible. The said jacket can quickly be turned into a tote bag by executing maneuvers that are basic and simple. The jacket has a back piece that doubles as a sack portion consisting of a surface interrupted by a mouth opening positioned across the shoulder area, in which said mouth opening leads to a sack portions which when inverted, the entire jacket is delivered into the sack portions thus transforming the jacket into a tote bag. The jacket is reversible and is worn in the reversed mode. The presence of a reversible feature to the jacket allows the overall appearance of the present invention to conceal its multiple functions without the use of closing devices, in that the multiple functions are now not obvious to the human eye. Furthermore, the present invention was created as casual outerwear or the like or as a carrying tote bag of which either function can be used for general purposes.

Description of Prior Art

To date we have seen many combinations of jacket and bag in one inventions and various attempts that have been made in prior art to produce garments that have multiple uses. The drawbacks are that the multiple functions are actually limited, the article includes numerous closing devices thus giving the garment a more technical and rigid look to it rather than the appearance of what could be fashionable attire. In addition to all of this, the maneuvers used to convert the item from one function to another are oftentimes tedious and laborious.

United States Patent Des. 277, 049 describes a jacket and carrier bag combination in which the major drawback is that the carrier bag can only hold one item, the jacket itself and

nothing more. The limited use of the combination beach towel and tote bag found in U.S. Patent 4,856,912 is severely obvious in that the tote bag is so large it would be more of a chore to carry the item anywhere other than to the beach. The combination garment used as a jacket and bag found in U.S. Patent 4,347,629 and the combination coat with a built in sleeping bag found in U.S. Patent 4,158,892 require elaborate adjustments to produce the desired effects or functions. Both items offer a rather unpleasant appearance when worn as a clothing item due to the multiple fastener tracks and sliders, sacks and buttons needed to transform the item from jacket or coat to the respective bag function.

U.S. Patent 4,502,154 demonstrates convenience however the size of the bag is not realistically suitable for carrying items comfortably other than the jacket itself, thus leaving the user with the dilemma of limited carrying space similar to that found in Des. 277, 049. U.S. Patent 4,700,409 is also an attempt at combining a jacket and bag in one feature. The sliding fasteners used to close the opening of the pouch when jacket is not being used as a bag, would be more appealing if they were hidden and upon the conversion from jacket to bag, the bag has a purse like design, that would be more attractive to a female population thus excluding an entire demographic of male users. U.S. Patent 4,502,155 is yet another attempt at a combination outerwear and bag in one. Here, a bag like structure is actually attached to the jacket by sewing walls together to form the bag, with an additional smaller bag attached on top of it. Chuck webs, connector hooks and snaps are needed to convert the jacket into the bag mode. These devices may be necessary to form the bag to function properly but the problem is that when the article is worn as an outerwear garment, it has the appearance of a garment loaded with contraptions as oppose to a versatile piece of clothing.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention overcomes these problems and provides an overall improvement of the other prior art by presenting a reversible jacket that would allow the user to conceal the opening leading to the sack portion of the jacket that enables the user to convert the jacket into a tote bag. The fact that it is reversible also eliminates the need for fastening tracks, hooks and snaps to seal the sack portion opening because the jacket is worn in the reverse mode, and the back piece containing the opening for the sack portion is the inner layer for the inside of the jacket. The simplicity of this multi-facet combination reversible jacket and tote bag in one is that it only requires at least two maneuvers to change the article from one mode to the other. First the user takes off the jacket and by reaching into the opening of the sack portion of the jacket, the user inverts the sack portion, which delivers the jacket into the sack portion and thus converts the said jacket into a tote bag. When the garment is worn as a jacket, its function as a tote bag is not obvious to the human eye. Again, when the jacket is worn in the reverse mode, the back piece of the jacket has a smooth and uninterrupted surface, which allows for its multifunction to be concealed. The simplicity of the present invention makes the item versatile, comfortable and useful and gives the present invention a more fashionable look for outerwear attire while concealing its multiple functions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

The features of the present invention will be apparent from the following description with reference to the accompanying drawings, which illustrate preferred embodiment of the invention:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the article (herein jacket) used both as a jacket and tote bag in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, seen from the front.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the jacket of FIG. 1 seen from the rear.

FIG. 3 is a view of the conversion from jacket to tote bag, as the sack portion is turned inside out.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the jacket converted into a tote bag and ready for use.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the jacket in FIG. 1 in its reversible mode as seen from the front.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the jacket of FIG. 1 in its reversible mode as seen from the rear.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to FIG. 1, this view is a perspective view of jacket in its mode of operation as a casual jacket or the like. The jacket consists of mouth 1 which is the head and neck opening of the jacket. Buttonhole track 2 along with button 3 is the fastening device used to keep the jacket closed when being worn. Sleeve 4 is used to receive the arms into the said jacket and trunk portion 5 is for the upper part of the body. There is a right piece and a left piece forming the front panels for trunk portion 5. Viewing FIG. 2, it shows the rear view of the jacket. Two sheets of material are sewn together forming the

back piece of trunk portion 5 of the jacket. The right side of the back piece of trunk portion 5 is sown to the right front piece. The left side to the back piece of trunk portion 5 is sown to the left front piece. Concerning the two sheets of material forming the back piece as shown in Fig. 2, one side has a smooth surface while the other side has a surface that is interrupted by a mouth opening. Fig. 2 is a view of the side interrupted by a mouth opening. The mouth opening identified by 20 leads to the sack portion 30, which is the result of the sheets of material being attached. Rope like article 21 are the rope like fixtures that are used to carry the combination reversible jacket and tote bag in one, when the said jacket is being used in the tote bag function. The rope like article 21 is positioned through loophole 22. Trunk portion base 6 is the lower trunk portion of the sack portion 30. FIG. 3 is a full view of the jacket as it is converted into the tote bag mode. The article can be used as a tote bag in the following manner. First the user takes off the jacket and places his hand through the mouth opening 20 of the sack portion 30 until he reaches the seam identified by trunk portion base 6 as viewed in FIG. 2. User then must grab hold of material at trunk portion base 6 and pull upward, inverting the entire sack portion 30. The sleeves 4, trunk portion 5, buttonhole track 2 and button 3 along with mouth opening 1 are all delivered down into the sack portion 30 through mouth opening 20. Rope like article 21, which are positioned through loophole 22, are used to carry tote bag and are adjustable. Trunk portion base 6 is the lower trunk portion of sack portion 30 also viewed in FIG. 2, FIG. 4, and FIG. 6.

The results of this maneuver are seen in FIG. 4, as this is the perspective view of the jacket converted into the tote bag function and ready for use. Again, mouth opening 20 received sleeves 4, truck portion 5, button hole track 2 and button 3 along with mouth opening 1 and are all tucked down into the sack portion 30. Sack portion 30 can receive other items as well such as keys, eye wear and money pouches. Mouth 1 is the head and

neck opening of the jacket when being worn. Rope like article 21 which are positioned through loophole 22 are used to carry tote bag and are adjusted to be used as handles as seen in FIG. 3.

To convert the tote bag back into a jacket, simply reach inside the tote bag and pull out the sleeves 4 and the entire trunk portion 5, button hole track 2 and button 3 will unfold to reveal itself once again as a jacket. You could then place rope like article 21 inside the sack portion 30 identified in FIG. 2; return jacket to its reverse mode and the jacket is now ready to be worn.

Because the jacket is reversible, FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the jacket in reversible mode. By simply turning the jacket inside out, you achieve and new look in that interlock-stitching 50 is along sleeves 4a and the entire boarder of the jacket. Fastening track 51 with slider 52 is used to close the jacket when being worn. The inside back piece of the jacket reveals mouth 20 identified in FIG. 2. Since mouth 20 is completely concealed, there is no need for a closing device to seal the opening. The inside back piece of the jacket also reveals loop hole 22 and the rope like article 21 which are positioned through loop hole 22 and are used to carry the garment when said jacket is converted to tote bag function.

The present invention used as a combination reversible jacket and tote bag in one more particularly relates to the view in FIG. 6 which is a plain view of the rear of the jacket with interlock stitching 50 visible as the border design on sleeves 4a which are used to receive arms into the garment. Trunk portion 60 covers the rear of the upper body and presents a clean, smooth surface as mouth opening 20, rope like article 21, loop hole 22 and sack portion 30 from FIG. 2 are now completely concealed. This reverse mode is what makes the jacket so unique in that the functions and articles used to convert the jacket into a tote bag are not exposed at all thus eliminating the

obviousness of its multiple functions and the need for any closing devices since mouth
20 which leads to sack portion 30 is now completely concealed as well.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a combination convertible article useful as a jacket and tote bag in one in which the jacket is reversible. It is designed to be a convenient and practical jacket suitable for light travel and active wear. The said jacket can quickly be turned into a tote bag by executing maneuvers that are basic and simple. The jacket has as a part of its structure two large sheets of material forming a back piece that functions as a sack with one of the surfaces having an opening leading to a sack portion. The sack portion can be inverted to secure the jacket into the sack, thus forming the tote bag structure. The jacket is reversible and is worn in the reversed mode at which the reverse mode prohibits any indication of the said jacket's multiple functions and enables the said back piece, which is the sack and the sack portion opening of the jacket to be protected without the use of any closing devices and or fixtures and allowing the appearance of the said sack portion to be completely concealed.